

Gur says Hamas dialogue possible

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel does not rule out negotiating with members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said on Saturday. Asked on Israel Radio what Israel would do if Hamas members are chosen for the Palestinian self-rule council in future elections, Mr. Gur said: "We will talk to them. Years ago we said we would not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until it recognises Israel, refrains from terror and so on. In the end ... they recognised Israel and made a commitment regarding terror." Hamas opposes the self-rule deal reached last year between Israel and the PLO. According to the agreement Palestinians were to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli and Palestinian representatives are still negotiating terms of the election and the Israeli troop withdrawal which will precede the vote. Hamas has claimed responsibility for three October attacks that have claimed 23 victims. Despite the violence, some of Hamas' political leaders are moving towards participating in future Palestinian general elections and claiming a share of power.

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State Division

100 die in Algeria, FIS chiefs back in jail

TUNIS (R) — Algerian authorities have returned to prison the two leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) after a goodwill gesture of moving them to house arrest failed, the newspaper El Watan said on Saturday. The men, Abdes Madani, the FIS president, and his fiery deputy Ali Belhadj, were taken back to their cells in Blida military prison in a week in which Algeria's official and independent media reported 100 people slain in the country's escalating civil strife. El Watan, normally reliable on security issues, said: "The two men regained their cells ... but Wednesday evening." Meanwhile, a French tourist was murdered in Algeria, the 21st French victim of political violence in the country, the French foreign ministry said. It named him in a statement as Jean-François Marquette and said he had been on a tourist trip. Radio and television said the 27-year-old Frenchman had been kidnapped by armed men on Friday and his body was found on Saturday in the town of Bouira, 130 kilometres east of Algiers. See earlier story on page 7

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Crown Prince returns

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home on Saturday after visits to Germany, Morocco and the United Kingdom.

His Majesty King Hussein received the Crown Prince, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, upon his return.

The Crown Prince led the Jordanian delegation to the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 conference held in Casablanca, Morocco, on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa.

In a speech to the conference, attended by leaders and senior officials from more than 50 countries and 2,000 business executives from all over the world, the Crown Prince emphasised Jordan's commitment to a free market economy and enhancing the role of the private sector.

The Crown Prince also presented Jordan's vision of a Middle East in a state of peace and stability.

Amman will host a follow-up conference to the Casablanca summit in mid-1995 when many of the proposals submitted in the summit are expected to crystallise into real projects.

The Crown Prince, before attending the Casablanca summit, paid a brief visit to the United Kingdom after attending the conference in the Moroccan city.

Also receiving the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath upon their return home were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan.

Also present were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, the King's advisors, the King's private secretary, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai, heads of the Public Security and General Intelligence departments, Royal Court officials and the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Germany and Morocco in Jordan.

Cabinet panel to oversee assistance to victims of flood

AMMAN (J.T.) — In implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein to address the needs of victims of last week's flash-floods in Jordan, the Council of Ministers on Saturday set up a ministerial committee to supervise arrangements for assistance to the affected families.

The committee, which is chaired by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad, groups Minister of Social Development Mohammad Squer, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razak Ensour and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan.

The committee was asked to report to the Council of ministers on progress of its work.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has despatched a team of officials and engineers to Mafraq region, one of the most severely hit by the storm to conduct a survey of damages there. The team will also visit Ramtha to the north.

A ministry official said the team would make a comprehensive study of the situation and make proposals for rehabilitation. The official said equipment would be sent to the affected

Lower House begins debate of peace treaty

Majority support foregone conclusion, but opponents try to make their point

treaty will lead to the return of all Jordanian rights.

"The treaty has ceded Arab and Islamic land ... four fifths of the land of Palestine" because the peace talks were based on U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338, said Mr. Mansour, spokesman of the IAF's 17-member bloc.

Twenty-seven out of 53 deputies who requested the floor addressed the House yesterday with the majority of them expressing support for the treaty and two parliamentary blocs announcing that they will vote for endorsing it.

Opponents of the treaty, however, also made their stand known during the session even though they admitted that they will not be able to block the ratification of the accord which is expected to pass with 55-59 votes in the 80-strong House.

The session started amidst strict security measures. Paramilitary troops were stationed on the major roads leading to Parliament. According to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, the government had received "information" which made these measures necessary.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House had recommended that the House endorse the treaty as the "best" accord the Kingdom could have reached in light of what is "possible and realistic."

The committee, which is headed by prominent centrist Deputy Abdul Karim Al Kababiti and includes representatives of all parliamentary blocs, said the treaty allows Jordan to regain all its rights in land and water and falls in line with the basic principles upon which the Kingdom entered the peace talks with Israel in Madrid in 1991.

But three of the 23-member committee opposed its recommendation on the basis of what they termed as ideological and realistic considerations.

The three Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, Hamzeh Mansour, Bassam Omoush and Mohammad Al Haj, also rejected the committee's assertion that the

treaty will lead to the return of all Jordanian rights.

"The treaty has ceded Arab and Islamic land ... four fifths of the land of Palestine" because the peace talks were based on U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338, said Mr. Mansour, spokesman of the IAF's 17-member bloc.

Mr. Mansour said he also rejects the treaty because it recognises the right of Israel to exist in Palestine, it allows for diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and Israel, puts Jordan in a strategic alliance with the Jewish state and does not lead to the recovery of all the Kingdom's rights in water.

The Islamist deputy, whose speech was interrupted more than once by people in the galleries who hailed the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, also blasted the treaty for calling for the elimination of any "aggressive and discriminatory" references in Jordanian and Israeli legislation, saying that this is a prelude for changing school curricula to rewrite the history of the struggle with the 80-strong House.

Ms. Faisal said she "would use the margin of freedom" allowed to her as a deputy who has parliamentary immunity and speak against the treaty and "the lies the government is making."

She said this immunity was guaranteed by the Constitution and not by any other individual. Those who attempt to take away this immunity, she said, will themselves lose their immunity because they will be violating the Constitution that gave it to them.

Opponents of the accord also focused on a clause that allows Israelis to remain in Jordanian land under the "jurisdiction of Israeli law." They said this "concession" is a precedent that makes a mockery of the government's assertions that it has regained its sovereignty over all Jordanian land.

Referring to the history of the Islamic movement in Jordan, Dr. Omoush said the IAF will continue to defend the country with all its power because "we the Islamists never had a black page in this country."

"Now, and regrettably so, this treaty will receive the support of the majority which has to shoulder its responsibility before God and the people. It is democracy that allows all to speak their opinions" said Dr. Omoush.

But what the Islamists are calling for, he said, are not the principles of a limited party. They are calling for upholding the teachings of God and hence is the IAF call on other deputies to be "in harmony with themselves and reject the treaty."

Opposition deputies also charged that the treaty represents a deviation from coor-

dination with other Arab parties to the peace talks and weakens the position of those still negotiating with Israel.

Leftist deputy Mustafah Shneikat said his opposition to the treaty does not stem from his rejection of the concept of peace but from the "failure" of the treaty to abide by the decisions of international legitimacy.

He accused the government of breaking its previously declared stand on the issue of refugees and displaced persons by agreeing to settle them in countries other than their homeland.

Harsh criticism of the government also came from Deputy Toujan Faisal who said the government was oppressing public freedoms. Ms. Faisal questioned the motivation of the deployment of security forces around Parliament, suggesting it resulted from lack of confidence.

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were in Jordanian hands and 1,000 dunums were in no man's land. Under the agreement, Israel gives up its claim to the majority of this land but Israeli farmers will be allowed to continue utilising an area of 830 dunums for a renewable period of 25 years, the committee said in its report.

Proponents of the peace treaty sought to refute the opposition's arguments, asserting that the treaty is "a balanced accord" that serves the interest of the Kingdom and allows it to regain all its rights in land and water.

Announcing the endorsement of the treaty by the 12-member National Democratic Alliance, Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb said the treaty "was balanced to an acceptable degree, leads to the recovery of our rights and puts an end to the aggression of the other side."

"Our aim of patriotic motives and with national pride, I announce" the support of the coalition to the treaty, said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

Pan-Arabist Deputy Sameer Habashneh said Jordan did not break Arab coordination and has been the party that sought it most.

He said it was the Rabat Arab summit decision of 1974 that recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people and that made the occupied territories the responsibility of the PLO.

He said opposition was expecting Jordan to act as if it had all the resources of the Arab Nation and thus demanding from it more than it could realistically provide.

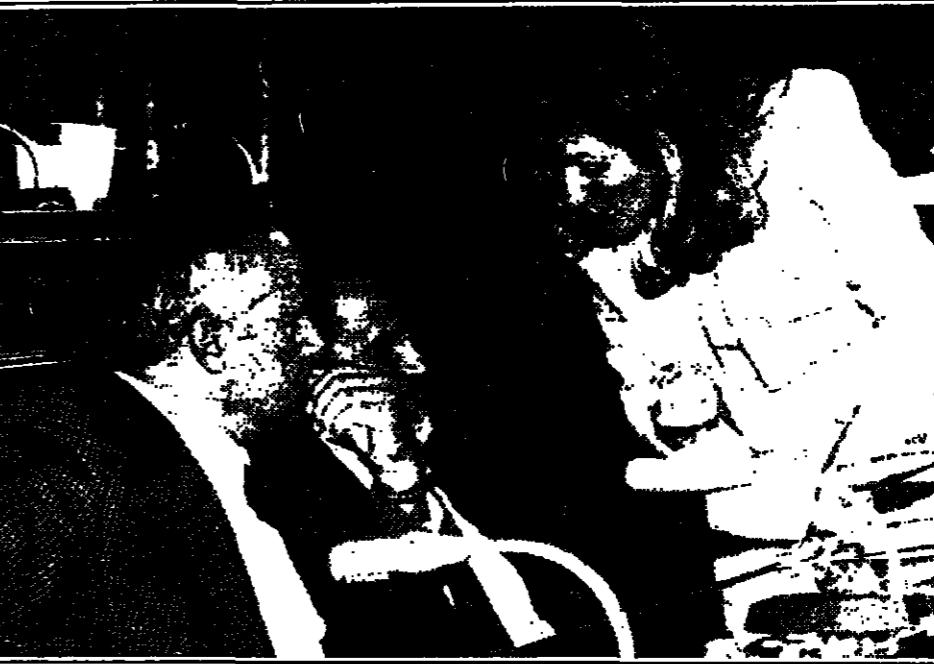
"Why wait?" Mr. Habashneh said in response to those who said that Jordan moved too quickly in signing the peace treaty with Israel.

"Why wait? Have we opted for peace because other Arabs are putting forward the option of war and we reject that? Are those Arabs who want us to wait worried because we will not be the last to reach a peace treaty" when they wanted to use Jordan as a negotiating

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Hindawi have a chat during Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



Deputy Toujan Faisal consults her colleagues during Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Lawmakers draw clear pro- and anti-treaty lines

In its first full debate of the Jordan-Israel treaty, the Lower House of Parliament yesterday listened to speeches by 27 deputies. Following is a report summarising those speeches

Abdul Hadi Majali (Karak), who spoke on behalf of the 16-member National Action Parliamentary Bloc, voiced support for the peace treaty with Israel and stressed that the treaty was a strictly Jordanian option.

This option was taken in order to safeguard the higher national interests and the treaty was a tool for Jordan to secure its usurped rights, Mr. Majali said.

"The Jordanian people were not in a position to delay the peace treaty further because delay means further sufferings and could lead nowhere," he added.

Mr. Majali explained that Jordan had offered an umbrella for the Palestinians enabling them to take part in the Madrid conference and later to take up their own course to reach agreements with Israel in Oslo. The Palestinian decision was taken freely and they are now on the way of regaining their rights, he added.

"At the same time we will continue to back the Palestinian endeavours. Now with the treaty ensuring our rights back and ending all threats posed to the Kingdom, we are in a stronger position to extend backing to the Palestinians," he said.

Coordination among Arab parties, Mr. Majali said, did not exist and Jordan had to opt for a way out of the difficult situation and rescue itself.

He questioned the reason behind those who felt angry over the treaty. Are they unhappy because "we have been rescued or because we

face a dangerous turning point and therefore requires from us a high degree of vigilance and feeling of responsibility."

"The case before us today," said Mr. Abul Ragheb, "places us face to face with a major challenge in that we have a choice whether to remain dreaming and waiting for the unknown, giving no attention to regional and international developments or whether we become realistic and aspiring for a better future with all that it entails of hard work, planning and construction to ensure better life for our people."

"We view the peace treaty not as a panacea healing all ills; nor do we consider it to be fully satisfactory. But in my view it is balanced to a reasonable degree because it has secured the return of our lands and other rights and put an end to aggression and expansionist designs," Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

"We will continue to aspire to the day when genuine just and comprehensive peace will prevail in the whole region and we will pursue efforts to see an end to Israeli occupation of our land and the Palestinians regaining their independent state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital," he said. "We will continue to back all efforts aimed at the restoration of Palestinian refugees rights in their own homeland."

"In my view there can be no genuine peace unless it involves the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and envoys their full sovereign rights," he added.

"The present stage requires from people to

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Nizar Abdul Qader Al Zaben (right), a youth who saved five people from drowning in the heavy rains and floods, which killed nine persons in the Zarqa region alone.

Official figures put the death toll from the floods at 21 killed. Al Dusour said Saturday that 24 people died, 34 were injured and 11 were missing.

Mr. Sqour chaired a meeting of heads of the departments of the Minister of Social Development to review emergency assistance to victims of the floods.

Ministry sources said foodstuffs and financial aid will be distributed to the various families shortly.

In Madaba, local teams backed by the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and the municipal council were clearing culverts and rebuilding and clearing roads from earth and rocks.

Similar moves were reported in Karak and Tafith regions which were also hit by the floods.

According to the Royal Court, King Hussein paid tribute to his courage and conferred on him the Jordanian Independence Medal of the

small car which sank in the floods near the Pepsi factory.

Later he administered first aid to the five people and helped carry them in a car to the civil defence centre in Marka, to a local health centre and the Queen Alia Hospital. He also offered assistance to the rescued people some of whom were suffering from injuries.

Ali Abul Ragheb (Amman)

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who spoke on behalf of the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, said: "Today is a day like no other, a day that will have a great significance in the history of Jordan and the whole region, a day in which we

(Continued on page 7)

Arab NGOs call on governments to appoint women to public office

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates representing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 11 Arab countries ended a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday by issuing a call on Arab governments to allow women to participate in various branches of government in the decision making process.

Organised as part of the preparations for the World Conference on Women to be held next year, the meeting demanded in particular that governments fulfil one-third of rural, municipal and diplomatic positions with women and implement programmes designed to spread awareness among women concerning their social rights and pave the way for women's participation in economic activities without discrimination.

The meeting, which was organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GEJW) urged the concerned authorities and various institutions to encourage women to join political parties and social institutions and called on the United Nations to increase women's participation in international

agencies to 50 per cent by the year 2000.

They called open governments to increase women's participation in diplomatic missions on an equal footing with men.

The participants urged Arab governments to introduce measures making basic education compulsory for women until at least the middle level and to take drastic action to prevent school dropouts among girls.

They recommended that more attention be given to primary health care services, programmes encouraging breast feeding and family planning, and to make available funds to finance projects for women.

The statement said that the delegates have reviewed different issues pertaining to women's involvement in cultural, social, political and economic life and held several workshops to discuss issues pertaining to women's education, eradicating illiteracy and ending all forms of discrimination against women.

According to the statement the meeting called for the release of detained women from Israeli jails and allowing

the refugees and displaced families the right to be repatriated to their homeland.

Later Saturday, Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted a reception for participants in the NGO Forum.

Queen Noor, honorary president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, welcomed the participants and praised their efforts in promoting the advancement of Arab women. The Queen spoke of the marked advancement in the status of women in the Arab world, emphasising the continuing role each country has in implementing policies and recommendations to realize a tangible change in women's lives and in the development of the whole community.

The reception was attended by Princess Basma Bint Al Talal, head of Jordan's delegation to the Beijing conference, Gertrude Mongella, president of the Beijing conference, Supatra Masdit, the convenor of the NGO Forum, Dr. Rasha Al-Sabah, Sheikha Loulou Al-Khalifah, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, regional coordinator for Western Asia and other women leaders.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Mohammad Al-Batni (Photo by Yousef Al-Allan)

Government pledges assistance in social development to Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday said it would provide Yemen with expertise in social affairs and social security and extend assistance in educational and health fields to the Yemeni people. Meeting separately Saturday with visiting Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Mohammad Al-Batni, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of Social Development Mohammad Squer pledged the government's assistance in these areas to Mr. Batni.

Mr. Batni said that he was making his current visit to Jordan at the head of a Yemeni delegation in a bid to

benefit from the Kingdom's expertise in social affairs.

The Yemeni delegation plans to examine the Ministry of Social Development programmes and look into the work of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and also study programmes carried out by special education institutions for the handicapped, Mr. Batni said.

The prime minister said that the two countries plan to sign an agreement to normalize cooperation between them in social affairs by providing for Jordanian expertise to be given to Yemen and for the Yemeni government to employ Jordanian experts.

Mr. Bami met earlier with Dr. Squer and discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation in social affairs, including development of local communities, registration and supervision of voluntary and charitable societies, training of personnel employed in social fields and matters related to women's activities among other topics.

Faraj Al Hashem, director of the National Aid Fund (NAF), outlined his department's activities and how less fortunate groups of families benefit from its services.

Princess Wijdan honoured for contributions to the arts

By Joanne L. Nik
USA

WASHINGTON — The world community is growing closer through knowledge of one another's cultures, according to Princess Wijdan Ali. The Princess visited Chicago, Illinois, this week to mark the beginning of Arab Heritage Month in Chicago and to receive a special award for her contributions to the arts.

On Oct. 28, more than 300 art patrons and officials from the U.S. and Arab World attended a black tie dinner at the Chicago Culture Centre to honour Princess Wijdan, the creative force behind Jordan's National Gallery of Fine Arts and patrons of graphic art in Jordan. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the opening at the centre of an exhibition entitled, "Forces of Change: Women Artists of the Arab World."

Salwa Mikdadi Nashashibi, curator of the exhibition and founder of the International Council of Women in the Arts, presented a large crystal inscribed with a message of appreciation to Princess Wijdan for her longstanding involvement with contemporary arts.

Ms. Nashashibi praised the Princess for creating "a treasure house in Jordan to share with the world" and explained that the Jordan National Gallery "houses a collection of contemporary art from Islamic countries stretching as far as Indonesia and all the way west to Morocco in North Africa."

During her remarks, Princess Wijdan praised "Forces of Change: Women Artists of the Arab World" opened in Chicago following its highly successful showing at Washington's National Museum of Women in the Arts earlier this year. It will run in Chicago until Dec. 16 and then is scheduled to

would dispel "myths harboured by some Americans about the role of today's Arab women in the family, the world of work and as artists."

"Most nations have learned to deal successfully with prejudice," she said. "Almost all nations condemn religious, racial, and class intolerance — at least on paper. However, mistrust coupled with misunderstanding and self-interest have prompted conflicts among peoples and divided the globe between east and west, north and south. All the wars that have plagued our earth happened simply because of the absence of tolerance, bred by ignorance, and lack of understanding..."

Princess Wijdan, an accomplished artist, received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Islamic art from the University of London. In 1971 she established the Royal Society of Fine Arts and a year later, donated her entire personal collection of contemporary fine arts to Jordan's National Gallery. The museum now houses more than 1,800 pieces.

Besides her activities in Jordan and the Middle East, the Princess makes personal appearances to help raise money for women in the arts. During her current visit to the U.S. she met with art students and members of Chicago's art community.

"Forces of Change: Women Artists of the Arab World" opened in Chicago following its highly successful showing at Washington's National Museum of Women in the Arts earlier this year. It will run in Chicago until Dec. 16 and then is scheduled to

visit Miami, Florida, and Atlanta, Georgia.

The exhibit incorporates a wide range of styles, from paintings of traditional images and Islamic ornamentation to abstract sculpture and multi-media exhibits. Some of the works combine the old with the new such as the poetry of Lebanese artist Ethel Adnan, whose handwritten verses draw on traditional Arabic calligraphy.

The exhibition includes 127 works by 61 artists from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates. It also contains work by artists of Arab origin living in the United States, as well as samples of Princess Wijdan's own contemporary calligraphy, depicting the slaughter of the prophet Mohammad's grandson Hussein and 77 of his family and followers in the 7th century.

An illustrated 148-page exhibition catalogue for "The Force of Change" is also available. Its essays by distinguished experts serve as a valuable resource for those seeking information about contemporary art by women of the Arab World.

The International Council for Women in the Arts, a California-based, non-profit organisation which co-sponsored the exhibit, was established in 1990 to encourage, initiate and implement projects such as "The Force of Change," which help promote the art of women from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia and to open education and exchange channels between American audiences and the Arab World.

Furthermore, he continued, the treaty approves

of the implementation of Article 4 in the treaty on security will have negative repercussions on several parties in Jordan and will lead to repressing public freedom in the name of refraining from organising anti-Israeli actions.

In addition, it bars Jordan from joining any military or security alliance which threatens inter-Arab agreements as well as political parties whose platforms call for the liberation of Palestine or seeking Arab unity, he said.

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Islamist deputies assail treaty Negotiator explains fine gal lines

AMMAN (J.T.) — In meetings of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee last week, three opponents of the peace treaty, all Islamists, explained why they opposed the agreement. Top negotiator Awn Al Khasawneh, on the other hand, defended the agreement when he appeared before the panel, which is headed by deputy Abdul Karim Kababri.

Following are major excerpts from the three Islamist deputies' objections to the treaty, which they read out before the full House Saturday, and Mr. Khasawneh's defence of it:

Hamzeh Mansour
Mr. Mansour said that Jordan's rights to establish expansionist agricultural and industrial projects surpassing its needs to meet the needs of the coming waves of Jewish immigrants, expected to total 2 million people over the coming six years.

He warned that the treaty will allow Israeli industries to penetrate the Jordanian market and threaten similar industries on the Jordanian side in view of the advanced level of the Israeli industries, their size and low cost.

Unfortunately, he said, the treaty has also called for assistance in settling refugees, saying this is rejected at both the public and official level.

Mohammad Ahmad Al Haj
Dr. Omoush said politics and the status quo should not stand no matter how bad the prevailing conditions are, reviewing sacrifices offered by the Jordanians and the Arab army for Palestine. He said Jordan was able in the past to achieve results better than those achieved in the treaty. "Were we stupid in the past? Are we the smartest of all today? So why did we wage wars? Why did we offer the blood of men in the battlefield? Why did we boycott Egypt and remove the headquarters of the Arab League from it? And why do we insist on our sovereignty over Jerusalem and on the fact that it is the essence of the conflict?" Dr. Omoush repeatedly asked.

The Jews have also succeeded in securing a pledge (from Jordan) to refrain from broadcasting hostile propaganda, and it is anticipated that this danger will threaten — in addition to legislations and government — publications, school textbooks, mosque sermons, movies and all media of expression, which will lead to more restrictions on freedoms and means of expression."

He further criticised the treaty saying it provides for cooperation between the two sides in almost all aspects of life, thus exceeding any inter-Arab agreement.

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play a role in defining terrorism and freedom of expression.

Also, Dr. Omoush claimed the Jordanian economy was threatened by normalising relations with Israel, saying the Amman Financial Market as a medium to penetrate other Arab markets, noting that this is something it failed to do after the Camp David accords.

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French right heads for split

PARIS (Agencies) — The French right headed for a possible split that could benefit the moribund Socialists as Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac declared his candidacy for next year's presidential elections.

The move by Mr. Chirac, who lost to President François Mitterrand in 1988, amounted to throwing down a gauntlet to his rightist rival and undeclared front-runner, Premier Edouard Balladur.

The bid intensifies a bitter duel between Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur, both members of the conservative Rally For The Republic party. To represent the right in the two-round elections next April and May.

If the battle damages conservative unity, the Socialists could reap a victory, a remarkable comeback for a party levelled in parliamentary elections last year.

To avoid that possibility, some are suggesting weeding out weak candidates with an American-style primary, rather than everyone brawling up the first round. The two-round system on each other.

"However the situation at this time evolves, the union of the (right-wing) majority around one single candidate has to be realised," Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said.

Polls show that European Chief Jacques Delors would be the Socialists' strongest contender. Like Mr. Balladur, he lacks the seasoned campaigning skills of Mr. Chirac and has not declared his candidacy.

Mr. Balladur and Mr. Delors appear to French analysts to be burning images of cool competence sitting above the political fray. Mr. Chirac trailing in the polls, has an interest in getting in early punches.

"We're not going to let

ourselves get dragged into the ideological debates that the French have been saturated with," Mr. Balladur said in his first public reaction.

Mr. Balladur's supporters criticised Mr. Chirac's declaration as setting up an electorally fatal split. Mr. Chirac's countered that playing coy was dishonest with the French people.

Sundered ranks could lead to a replay of 1988, when then-Prime Minister Chirac fought a bruising campaign against former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing before losing to Mr. Mitterrand, who was re-elected to a second seven-year term.

Mr. Balladur's enormous popularity since becoming prime minister in April 1993 has eroded in recent weeks over scandals in his cabinet and stubbornly high unemployment.

Mr. Chirac, 61, is considered slightly more conservative than Mr. Balladur. But both men are likely to push ahead selling off state companies and trimming social programmes.

Neither has come out strongly for or against calls by some conservatives to resume nuclear weapons testing in the South Pacific, ending Mr. Mitterrand's moratorium.

The socialists are banking on rising voter discontent with unemployment, which rose 0.1 per cent this week to 12.7 per cent, and with scandals now claiming members of Mr. Balladur's cabinet.

The biggest wild card could be Mr. Mitterrand, 78, who is suffering from prostate cancer. The president has said that he may resign early, forcing snap elections, if his health fails to the point he can no longer perform his duties.

The RPR has called an emergency congress in seven days time at which Mr. Chirac hopes to be appointed its favourite.

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at the moment when Mr. Delors, 69, has the best chance of winning. But he is also thought to wish to be the first fifth republic president to finish two terms.

Mr. Chirac helped engineer Mr. Balladur's appointment in April 1993 as a caretaker before the presidential election.

The Paris mayor has watched Mr. Balladur, 65, build up a separate power base within the Rally For The Republic and among other rightist parties to set up a rival presidential bid.

Other declared candidates are Jean-Marie Le Pen, the far-right National Front leader, Communist Robert Hue, Trotskyite Arlette Laguiller, and environmentalists Dominique Voynet and Brice Lalonde.

A beaming Chirac, at his best on the campaign trail, Saturday continued a tour of northern France, shaking hands with supporters and studiously avoiding reporters.

The former premier is to make his first comments as an official candidate in a television interview Sunday night.

The popular satirical television puppet show *Les Guignols De L'Info* (The News Clowns) pictured an excited Chirac twirling around Balladur and Delors, repeating "that's it, I am candidate" but failing to draw their attention.

The powerful machine of Mr. Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR), the country's biggest party, has already started rolling, issuing what it called a first list of 10? RPR members of the National Assembly, out of a total 259, backing Mr. Chirac's bid.

The RPR has called an emergency congress in seven days time at which Mr. Chirac hopes to be appointed its favourite.

official candidate. Mr. Chirac, dropping the presidency of the RPR to seek an image as a leader above the parties, might then be able to intimidate the more staid Balladur out of running.

Some analysts noted winners in past presidential elections had staged short campaigns. They said Mr. Chirac, facing a 170-day marathon to the elections, could burn out and be forced to back out of the race if he failed to catch up with Mr. Balladur.

"Chirac can fail if he is not credible enough," said Pascal Ferrineau, head of the Centre of Political Studies. "He will have either to fight Balladur from an underdog position or quit."

"In either case it will leave deep scars on right-wing voters."

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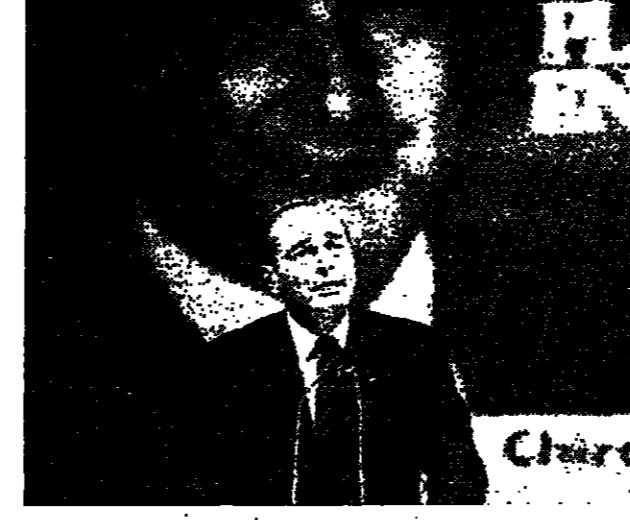


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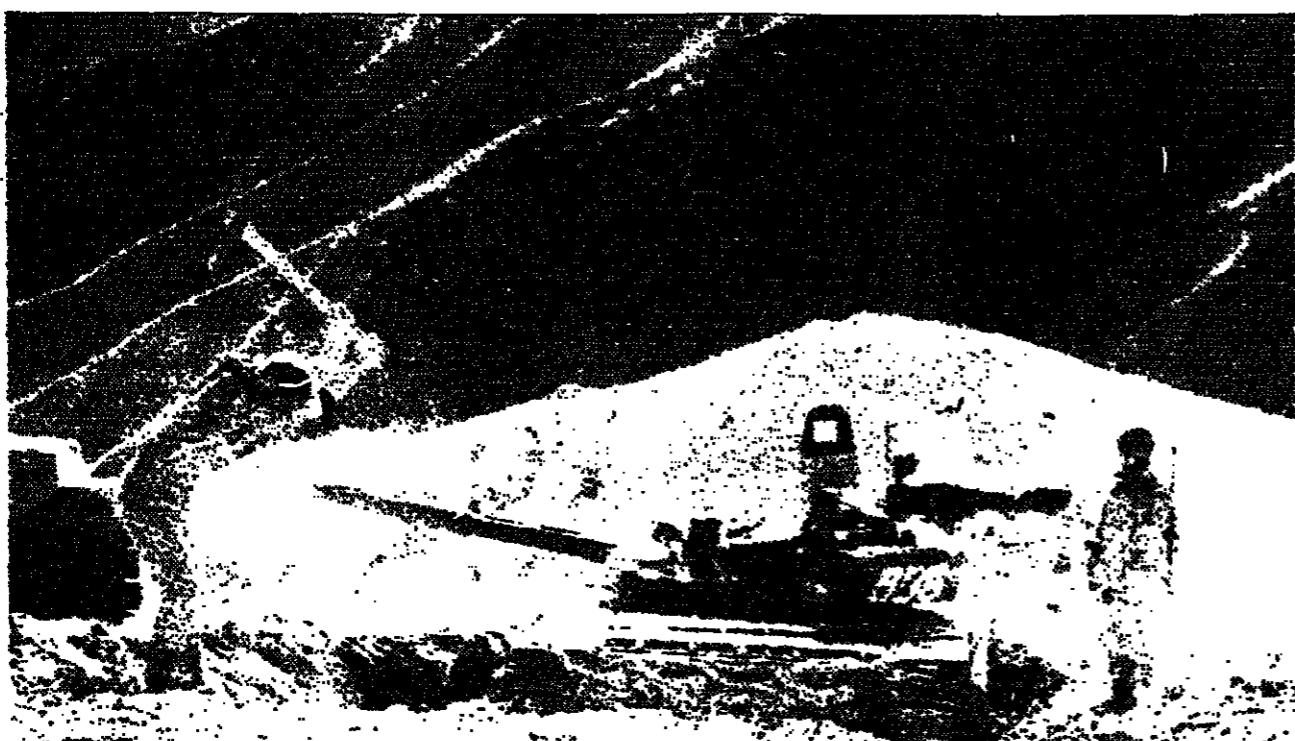
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Photo dated April



A Russian border-guard of the 12th Frontier Post digs a shelter trench for a tank while another soldier surveys the surrounding of their position at the Tajik-Afghan border (AFP photo)

Tension rises in Tajik capital before election

DUSHANBE (R)—Tension rose in the Tajik capital Dushanbe Saturday on the eve of the Central Asian republic's first presidential elections.

Security forces armed with machine guns guarded key buildings and many drivers were stopped for roadside checks after four explosions in the city Friday.

President candidate Abdumalik Abdulajanov, challenging parliament chairman and acting head of state Imamali Rakhmonov, flew to his political stronghold of Khojand in the north of the country after spending the night at Dushanbe Airport.

Mr. Abdulajanov, a businessman, former prime minister and currently Tajikistan's ambassador in Moscow

cow. said he had initially been prevented from leaving a television studio before going to the airport.

"They didn't let us out of the television building and then we slept here until the morning," he told reporters.

Mr. Abdulajanov did not say why he was kept at the studio, where he had been expected to take part in a television programme.

Russia's Interfax News Agency quoted the government spokesman as saying the delay at the airport was caused by special checks of every plane introduced after Friday's explosions.

The blasts damaged a telephone exchange, the Agriculture Ministry, a printing house and some other buildings in Dushanbe. Tajik Television reported several in-

juries.

A senior government official condemned the explosions as an effort to disrupt the election, being held with a referendum on a new constitution for the former Soviet republic of 5.1 million people.

Mr. Abdulajanov declined comment on who was behind the explosions but said: "It was to the advantage of those who do not want stability in the republic."

Most of the ex-Communist government's real opponents, an alliance of Islamic groups and liberals whose guerrillas have been waging cross-border raids from Afghanistan since losing a bloody clan war in late 1992, want the election called off.

Some analysts and diplomats have said the absence of

the opposition may lead to little change the Tajikistan's problems after the election, in which there are no big ideological differences between the candidates.

However, the government and opposition agreed in a third round of peace talks in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, earlier this month to extend a ceasefire for three months.

The truce, which came into force on Sept. 20 with the arrival of U.N. monitors, was due to expire on election day.

Liviu Bota, head of the United Nations mission of observers to Tajikistan, said Prime Minister Abduljalil Samadov had assured him the explosions would not affect the implementation of agreements reached in the talks.

"We assured us that they would not affect the implementation of the agreements they have undertaken," he told journalists.

"We have expressed the hope that the events of yesterday will not create obstacles in the badly-needed process of democratisation."

"Also we hope that these events will not be used to limit the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Tajikistan."

A key agreement reached in Islamabad was on the exchange of 27 prisoners on each side through the International Committee of the Red Cross. It was due before midnight (1900 GMT) Saturday.

The country is heavily reliant on Russia for its security. There are some 25,000 Russian troops in Tajikistan, mostly along the rugged Afghan border, along with a tiny contingent of Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeepers.

KARZIYAN

A prisoner (right) and prison guard (left) talk paper, on the pin-board which features pre-election portraits of the candidates for the investigation prison after reading the news-paper about the upcoming elections in a Dushanbe prison (AFP photo)

IAEA board to meet on N. Korean nuclear pact

VIENNA (Agencies)—The board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to meet soon to discuss implementing a U.N. request to monitor the recent U.S.-North Korean nuclear pact, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The Security Council in a statement Friday said it was satisfied with the nuclear pact reached in October and asked the U.N.'s atomic watchdog to carry out related monitoring activities.

"The agency has been expecting the statement giving it guidance on its future role in North Korea since the beginning of the week," a Western diplomat dealing with nuclear affairs said.

"IAEA chief Hans Blix is now expected to call an extraordinary meeting of the board of governors as soon as possible to discuss how to continue," the diplomat added.

The board of governors is to hold a regular meeting at the beginning of December, but the source said the Security Council decision was so significant it merited an extraordinary meeting to discuss it.

Under the Oct. 21 accord, North Korea agreed to freeze and eventually dismantle its existing graphite-moderated nuclear reactors.

In return, Washington would head an international consortium to finance and supply North Korea with a new generation of light-water power plants less suited to the production of plutonium that could be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

The IAEA and North Korea have feuded for the past two years over Pyongyang's refusal to permit all the inspections the U.N. agency considers necessary to determine whether North Korea has secretly reprocessed plutonium to develop nuclear weapons.

The Vienna-based IAEA is responsible for monitoring compliance with safeguards under the 1970 nuclear non-proliferation agreement, which North Korea has signed.

Under the Geneva pact, North Korea agreed to allow the IAEA to monitor the freeze on its graphite-moderated reactors.

It also conceded all inspections needed to verify full compliance with nuclear safeguards once a significant proportion of the new reactor project has been completed. This could involve a delay of up to five years.

The Security Council statement, read out at a brief meeting, "notes with satisfaction" the U.S.-North Korean

Ambassador Hwang

Mr. Taylor was expected at any moment.

"Taylor is the only one who has not yet arrived but we are expecting him any time now," a Ghanaian Foreign Ministry source said. "We do not want to start a full session with absences."

But the source said rival warlords, some of whom have been in the Ghanaian capital since Tuesday, were

showing signs of irritation and wanted the talks to begin as soon as possible.

"Ghanian officials are in close consultations with the various groups separately, trying to seek their views, consensus and generally clear the ground to ensure the talks succeed in achieving acceptable and lasting peace," he added.

The statement is regarded as an important step on grounds that it gave the IAEA additional authority for monitoring North Korea's nuclear freeze," he said.

Meanwhile, South Korea and China will sign a memorandum of understanding this month on possible construction of two South Korean-model light-water nuclear reactors in China. Seoul's envoy to Beijing was quoted as saying Saturday.

Mr. Hwang could not be reached for comment.

If the project goes ahead, it would be the first time South Korea had built nuclear reactors for China. North Korea's last remaining influential ally.

Militia leader's absence delays Liberia peace bid

ACCRA (R)—Militia warlords and the foreign ministers of Ghana and Nigeria cooled their heels in Accra Saturday as the late arrival of faction leader Charles Taylor delayed the latest bid to end Liberia's civil war.

Former civil servant Taylor, the man who launched the war from Ivory Coast in 1989, is key to any lasting settlement to the

fighting and anarchy that have brought Africa's oldest independent state to the brink of total collapse.

Ghana, which has peacekeepers in various world trouble-spots and is taking the lead in this latest attempt to bring Liberia's warring factions together, delayed the opening session of the closed-door talks, saying

showing signs of irritation and wanted the talks to begin as soon as possible.

"Ghanian officials are in close consultations with the various groups separately, trying to seek their views, consensus and generally clear the ground to ensure the talks succeed in achieving acceptable and lasting peace," he added.

Bosnian Muslims, Serbs battle for northwest Bosnia town

SARAJEVO (Agencies)—Bosnian Serb and Muslim forces battled for the northwestern town of Bosanska Krupa Saturday and U.N. peacekeepers said government troops were preparing to expand their successful offensive in central Bosnia.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said Bosanska Krupa on the edge of the Muslim-held Bihać pocket was being fiercely defended by the units of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

"We understand that (the Muslims) are now certainly able to put direct fire on to the town or the road but we don't have details of that," U.N. spokesman Tim Spicer said. "There is a report that five (Serb) tanks were captured in the fighting but that is unconfirmed."

Peacekeepers believed the BSA still held the eastern bank of the Una River around Bosanska Krupa whose civilian population has been evacuated to safety.

Muslim troops have been trying to capture the town since launching an autumn offensive 10 days ago that has rocked the BSA by driving Serb forces onto the retreat in northwest and central Bosnia and southwest of Sarajevo.

Although the BSA claimed to have retaken some lost ground in a counter-attack, the U.N. said the only evidence of this was in some fighting south of the Bihać pocket.

U.N. spokesman said they expected fresh Muslim-led offensives in central Bosnia to build on the capture of Kupres. The town of Donji

Vakuf, slightly north of Kupres was the next possible target.

Cemerska Planina north of Sarajevo was also thought to be vulnerable to Muslim attack.

According to the U.N., the Muslims were meeting little resistance southwest of Sarajevo in their attempt to advance on the town of Trnovo and to cut a vital supply road between Serb territory in east and southeast Bosnia.

"The BSA is putting up a stiff fight," said U.N. spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon. "We think there must be a lot of casualties and the town will not be easy for the Bosnian government army to capture."

The BSA has ordered a general mobilisation across the 70 per cent of Bosnia under its control in an attempt to stem the biggest Muslim battlefield successes of the 31-month war.

The BSA has ordered a general mobilisation across the 70 per cent of Bosnia under its control in an attempt to stem the biggest Muslim battlefield successes of the 31-month war.

Quoting Bosnian Serb military sources the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) charged that units from the regular Croatian army had been fighting alongside the Muslim-led Bosnian army and their Bosnian Croat allies.

Bosnian Serb troops have "established new lines of de-

fence" and since Friday are in control of the plateau northwest of Kupres and the road from Kupres to Sipovo, it said.

The communiqué was from the military command of the 2nd Army Corps of the self-styled Serb Republic, based at Bosanski Petrovac in western Bosnia.

According to the communiqué, the Bosnian army is now stationed to the east of the town of Trnovo and to cut a vital supply road between Serb territory in east and southeast Bosnia.

It said the arms building and trafficking was being helped by the ready availability of arms and military components in the former Soviet Bloc countries and by an apparent American readiness to turn a blind eye.

"What I need, I get," Croatian Defence Minister Gojko Susak said in an interview with the newspaper.

"The arms market is saturated, so saturated you would pay three times the price if you got things legally."

Mr. Susak described buying arms in countries including Poland, Bulgaria and Russia as "an open market" and told the *Times Croatia* was now providing the army of the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government with antitank weapons and ammunition for mortars and machine guns.

"The effect of the increase in the arms available to the Bosnian Muslim and allied Bosnian Croat forces has been evident in the last week in two successful offensives against the long-dominant Bosnian Serbs.

Beye told reporters here. Meanwhile UNITA renewed charges that a government air bombardment had been launched against the rebels' former headquarters in the southeast town of Jamba.

The rebels' Radio Vorgan said Saturday the bombardment, which started Thursday, had destroyed an orthopaedic centre sheltering an unspecified number of wounded. The shelling had also claimed civilian lives.

There was no immediate confirmation of the attack.

Government forces have since mid-September advanced into south and central regions held by UNITA.

The Angolan army said it had taken the town of Caala around 18 to 20 kilometres from UNITA's current headquarters in Huambo.

More fighting reported in Angola but peace deal expected to be signed

Berlusconi

warns off Fini

LUANDA (AFP)—Government forces Saturday pursued their offensive against UNITA, the rebel movement said, as the U.N. envoy to Angola dismissed fears that fighting would derail a peace accord to be signed in 10 days.

Alcione Blondin Beye confirmed here Saturday that a meeting of military leaders from the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) would meet in Lissaka Nov. 10 to work out final details of a ceasefire accord initially last week after a year of talks.

In an interview with La Repubblica newspaper, Mr. Berlusconi told Mr. Fini, the slick and articulate head of a movement seeking to bury its blackshirts past, not to entertain dreams of forming a far-right government.

"I will defend... my programme, my ideas and my people tooth and nail," said Mr. Berlusconi who swept to power in March general elections just two months after entering politics.

"We are an army of moderates and political reformers and our tradition must rest solidly democratic. We are allied with a right-wing party led by a very intelligent man—but we are not a part of the right."

The media magnate warned Mr. Fini, whom polls show has overtaken Mr. Berlusconi in the popularity stakes and whose party is fast gaining ground, not to invade his space.

"I have always been and always will be a man of the centre. Fini knows that and I think he also knows that it is not in his interest to show even a hint of arrogance or try to tread on his neighbour's turf."

Mr. Berlusconi made his comments just days after an opinion poll showed Forza Italia, the free-market party he formed at the start of the year, was gaining ground.

The poll, conducted by the SWG Institute for La Repubblica and published Tuesday, showed support for Forza Italia had dropped to 23 per cent from European elections in June when its approval rating was 30.6 per cent.

Over the same period AN saw its projected vote share jump from 12.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent.

Last weekend Fini said he would not be opposed to early elections.

"I don't want early elections, but I'm certainly not afraid of them and... we wouldn't stand in the way of them because support for us is growing."

The clean-cut Fini, 42, is considered the rising star of Italian politics.

He has led the Italian Social Movement (MSI), AN's core party founded by the heirs of wartime dictator Benito Mussolini, out of the political wilderness where it languished for five decades and into government after elections last March.

Mozambique ruling party sees narrow poll win

MAPUTO (R)—Mozambique's long-ruling FRELIMO party Saturday forecast a slim parliamentary win for itself and a clear victory for President Joaquim Chissano in the country's first multi-party elections.

A FRELIMO source told Reuters the party, which has ruled since independence in 1975, estimated Mr. Chissano would

win 53.33 per cent against 32.70 per cent for his main rival, Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebel movement RENAMO.

Some 12 presidential candidates and 14 parties or coalitions took part in the Oct. 27-29 elections for the presidency and the 250-seat parliament.

But the poll was mainly a

two-horse race between RENAMO and FRELIMO, which two years ago signed accords ending a 16-year civil war.

No official results are available from the independent National Electoral Commission (CNE), which oversees voting. CNE Chairman Braza Mazula says partial results may be available Monday.

French Mission Specialist Jean-François Clervay (foreground) and space shuttle pilot Curtis Brown peer out of Atlantis' flight deck windows after releasing the CRISTA-SPAS satellite.

lite. Clervay, Brown and four others are on an eleven-day atmospheric research mission aboard the space shuttle (AFP photo)

Shuttle mission satellite starts work

HOUSTON SPACE CENTER, Texas (AFP)—A satellite released by the space shuttle Atlantis began its observation work on atmospheric gases after a hold-up of several hours due to technical problems with the telescopes, space agency officials said.

Navigation and communication problems delayed the functioning of the telescopes shortly after the \$35 million German-made satel-

lite was deployed Friday by French astronaut Jean-François Clervay.

The navigation unit was blinded by sunlight making it difficult to lock its telescopes on to stars and radio links were malfunctioning, officials at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

Controllers at the command centre on earth resolved the problems Friday.

Jordan Times

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Rains need not kill

THE HEAVY rains that fell in many parts of the country over the weekend unnecessarily took a heavy toll on human life. Official sources spoke of up to 21 people as having lost their lives with 11 missing in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom, which is a terrible tragedy by any human standard.

This is not the first time that flashfloods take many lives and cause considerable material destruction. We cannot therefore claim that we have been caught off guard. The country has a long history of heavy rain, especially in the southern regions. We can recall no less than two or three cases of serious flashfloods every decade or so. The only surprise is the fact that we are still ill prepared to deal and cope with natural disasters such as those that repeat themselves every so often.

There are several measures that we could have taken when the country acquired the know-how and the tools to avert such disasters or at least minimise their damages. Planning is on the top of the list of steps that the country could have adopted right from the start. By planning we mean choosing the right places where towns and villages should be encouraged to grow, and the right type of construction to face heavy rains or earthquakes. Dams are also the normal way for averting floods in areas accustomed to receiving heavy rains in the winter season. The list is indeed long as to what the government is capable of undertaking to contain any damage or loss of life under difficult natural conditions.

What happened in Egypt a few days ago is a case in point as to what concerned authorities could have done to avoid natural catastrophes simply by proper planning but did not do. When oil depots placed too close to centres of populations catch fire for whatever reason, it is normal to expect that the result would be tragic. The Dronka fire last week took the lives of 550 Egyptian people simply because there was a grave error of judgement about where to construct oil storage depots.

To be sure, there is no foolproof method to avoid disasters be they man-made or contributed by nature. Still, what we can expect from our authorities is more planning, preparation and contingency measures when the odds work against everything that we have envisaged or expected. Perhaps our civil defence authorities can spearhead the national effort in this direction, by outlining well in advance the areas that are prone to natural disasters and then submitting the relevant proposals for dealing with the imminent dangers. No doubt other governments would have to pitch in the battle along the road. But for now, at least, a task force has to be created in order to look at the root causes of why there were so many casualties and so much damage and then to ensure that a similar tragedy does not occur in the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS natural to see public controversy raging in Jordan over the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, whether at the Parliament level or otherwise, said Al Ra'i daily. But this controversy reflects the fact that the Jordanian people enjoy a high degree of awareness and are ready to interact with events and scrutinise them before arriving at a decision, said the paper. However, the manifestations of support for His Majesty King Hussein and the peace treaty over the last few days in Jordan give an indication that the majority of people are for peace and they back their leader in his plans to attain prosperity for his people, it said. If Parliament endorses the treaty — as it is most likely to do — the Jordanians are required more than any time in the past to show and exercise national unity, especially as the peace treaty entails major challenges and opens the way for more diligent work and sacrifices, said the paper. It said that the coming stage requires from the Jordanians to rise to and meet the challenges of the coming era.

THE CHANGE from the position of war to a status of peace ought to be accompanied by certain changes in the economic conditions and an improvement of the quality of life so that peace can be meaningful, said a columnist in Al Dustour Saturday. Taher Al Adwan said that economic development is part and parcel of the requirements of peace to which the Arab people aspire at the moment. But he noted that the improvement can only come about in a democracy and respect of human rights and social justice.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Economic benefits of peace for Jordan

PEACE BETWEEN Jordan and Israel is now secured. Comprehensive peace in the Middle East is around the corner. The economic boycott is about to become history. 1995 will be the first year of the peaceful era in the area. The question is what benefits will accrue to Jordan on the short, medium and long terms.

On the short-term, Jordan will benefit from extra water, more foreign aid, debt relief, higher tourism activity and better expectations.

Jordan will recover a substantial part of its water, which will give a push not only to agricultural production but also to industry and civil life. Water shortages are a major problem for the country. Any extra source will give rise to other activities previously on hold due to lack of water.

Foreign aid was always a major source of public financing. It started with British aid until 1956, followed by American aid until 1967, when Arab Gulf states took over until 1990. Since then, Jordan received some aid from Japan, Germany, the European Union, the United States and other European countries but the volume of foreign aid was just enough to keep the Treasury going. It is hoped that peace will encourage donors to contribute more in order to make peace work.

Debt forgiveness in favour of Jordan was initiated by the president of the United States, Bill Clinton, who pledged to

write off all the Kingdom's debt to the U.S., which amounts to around 12 per cent of Jordan's foreign indebtedness. Mr. Clinton also undertook to urge other industrial countries to do the same. So far the response is not good enough but the signing of the peace treaty and the commitments made by Mr. Clinton in his address to Parliament may give better results.

Tourism already started its revival. With two crossings between Jordan and Israel, Jordan will receive as many tourists as its capacity may be able to accommodate. The touristic package, including Jordan, Egypt and the Holy Land will become the most attractive touristic attraction in the world. No wonder that eight classified hotels are now under construction in the Petra area alone. Tourism activity in Jordan may double in one year, and then grow steadily at a very high rate of growth to become a major source of foreign exchange.

Of course, peace may improve the expectations of the business circles, as the area is perceived to be in preparation for take off. Better expectations will have immediate impact on business behaviour all over.

On the medium-term, some sectors will grow faster, especially transport and transit business and exports.

Jordan is situated in a way to make it the cross-road in all directions. Syria and Turkey cannot reach the Gulf markets

except through Jordan. Iraq cannot reach the Red Sea except through Jordan. Israel cannot reach the Arab markets except through Jordan. Transport and transit business will definitely make a jump under peace, especially when the sanctions against Iraq are eased and eventually lifted.

Exports will continue to grow fast. The new market in the West Bank will be sufficient to cause 30 per cent growth in exports and six per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP). It is too early to assess the capacity of the Israeli market to absorb Jordanian products, but the value of such exports will be substantial, relative to the size of the Jordanian economy, if Israel did not follow protective measures to inhibit Jordanian competition.

In the longer-term, the major factor will be the new investments by Arab, foreign and local investors. Jordan will become a safer place. There will be no more threats of Israeli aggression. Security means lower risks and more investments. Investments are the only way to create jobs, raise income and make the man in the street feel the difference.

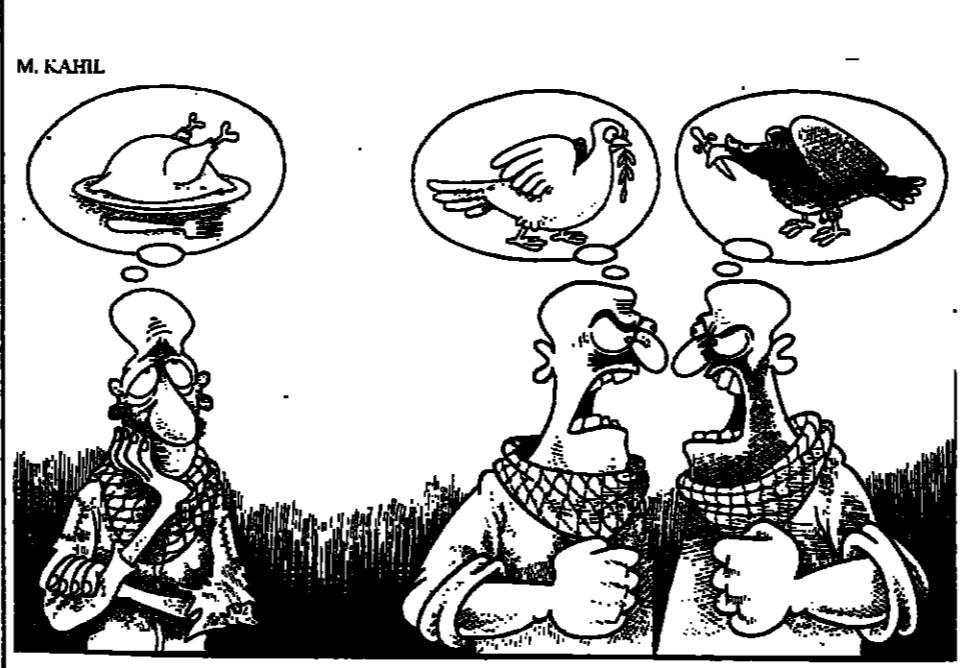
Of course, there will be a cost. Competition is good but it has its casualties. Many will benefit from the new window of opportunity but those who are inefficient may give way to others.

No peace in Israel without recognition of Palestinian's national rights

By Pascal Karmy

IT SEEMS that Israeli leaders are unable to rid themselves once and for all of both their superiority complex and occupation mentality, which have been ingrained in them apparently as a result of their distorted ancient history of Palestine and of the occupation of Palestinian land for more than 27 years. Thus, Israel has never qualified or characterised the occupied Palestinian territory as "occupied." But simply as "territory" because Israel considers the latter as part of the Biblical land of Israel (Eretz Isra'el). They believe that Palestine is theirs for they allege that was promised to them by their God "Yahweh" as mentioned in their Torah, which they themselves had written in times past. This belief or rather allegation is contested by historical facts which refute them.

Palestine has been known since time immemorial not as the land of Israel but as the land of Canaan, as written even in the Torah, which the Christians sometimes call the Old Testament.



This Torah is a mixture of history, legend and Hebrew mythology. The Israelis or the Hebrews, as they often used to be called, conquered about 1200 BC only part of Palestine from the Canaanites and other inhabitants of Palestine, such as the Philistines from whom incidentally the name of Palestine was derived. Israelis claim that Palestine was the historic home of the Jews who were driven from it by force by the Babylonians, the Assyrians and lastly by the Romans in the year 132 AD. But they ignore the fact that it was only by similar force and violence that they had previously conquered the Philistines from whom incidentally the name of Palestine was derived. Israelis still maintain that Palestinian territory is part of the land of Israel.

Despite the above irrefutable historical facts concerning Palestine, and notwithstanding the Oslo accord of September 1993 and that of Cairo of May 1994, Israelis still maintain that Palestinian territory is part of the land of Israel.

This attitude is, in my opinion, hindering the smooth implementation of the above-mentioned accords. Thus, in practice and on the ground, it does not seem that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's policy differs much from that of the Likud policy and practice when the latter was holding the reins of power.

Lands belonging to Palestinians are being confiscated, construction or fattening of settlements are being pursued relentlessly, killing, imprisoning and trying and condemning Palestinians

for resisting the occupation continue daily, curfews are being imposed and border crossings between Israel and the occupied territories are being shut to squeeze the Palestinians in a sort of ghetto and deprive their workers of the means of their livelihood.

Moreover, the Israelis, with their superiority complex and arrogant attitude, treat the Palestinians with despise and contempt with the aim of humiliating them. Such attitude and practices have led and will continue to lead to resentments and hatred against the Israelis. No wonder then that some of the Palestinian youth will resort to extreme violence and suicidal attack to vent their suppressed feelings of injustice and resentment.

All Israeli political, security and economic measures will be of no avail and will not put an end to the violent resistance of Palestinians unless Israel speedily withdraws from the Palestinian territory. Israeli leaders should put an end to procrastination and prevarication in the implementation of their accords with the Palestinians including their right to establish their state.

Even if Israel succeeds to conclude peace treaties with all Arab states but does not recognise the national rights of the Palestinians in their country, Israel will never have peace and security neither in the occupied territories nor, I dare say, in Israel itself.

came to Beijing to sign a memorandum of understanding.

He became in the process the first Western head of government to visit China since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

British diplomats insisted on Friday that the new pact would now finally break the deadlock. "This is a new agreement which will actually make it possible to move forward," said one envoy who requested anonymity.

But he made clear not every question had been answered.

"This is a very preliminary agreement," he said. "There are a lot of practical steps that have to follow it. We view it as a very positive basis for further cooperation that requires further practical steps."

China, for its part, maintained that the problems from 1991 until Friday were "all the fault of the British side."

"Originally, this question should have been settled at a very early stage," Zhou Nan, China's top official in Hong Kong, was quoted by a newspaper as saying.

When London says it wants to leave Hong Kong with world-class infrastructure to face the next century, China says it is worried that London wants to suck its colony dry financially.

When London says it wants to give the people of Hong Kong as much say in their political future as possible, Beijing interprets the moves as subverting Chinese authority and going back on previous agreements.

While these disputes have been the hallmark of relations between China and Britain in the run-up to the 1997 handover of Hong Kong, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Thursday he wanted a new atmosphere to emerge.

"By working together in practical ways we can at last wear down the mutual suspicions and misunderstandings of the past, and build a more profound and realistic friendship for the 21st century," Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying.

Such sentiments have been expressed by both sides previously, however.

Even the airport issue itself appeared to be solved once and for all back in 1991, when John Major

Bashir Hospital before. But I have always ignored them as hearsay. After this experience, I could not keep it inside. I am calling for an answer from the Ministry of Health.

Nadim Al Jaouani, Jabel Al Hussein, Amman.

Innocent till proven guilty

To the Editor:

In your report "Bomb explodes at Amman liquor shop" (Jordan Times, Nov. 5) I was quoted as saying "the blast may have been the work of religious extremists..."

I would like to clarify that on no one account did I attribute responsibility for the explosion to any party.

An investigation to find the culprits has been instigated by the police. Until they have revealed concrete evidence as to who may have been behind the incident, I will not apportion blame on anyone.

Samir Fakhoury, Amman.

Violence r Somalia as sets depart

Algerian tro bomber, 22

Violence rages in Somalia as U.N. sets departure date

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — As the United Nations sets the departure date for its costly and controversial mission in Somalia, the violence that the world body tried to curb in the ravaged Horn of Africa country was the order of the day.

Inside the heavily fortified compound of the U.N. operation in Somalia in Mogadishu, workers rioted on Saturday to protest against the dismissal of 500 colleagues by the U.S. construction firm Brown Root.

It was not immediately known why Brown Root, hired by UNOSOM to build and repair roads, fired the Somalis.

Near the central town of Baidoa, once known as the "city of death" because of its legacy as a town where children died like flies at the peak of a famine in 1991, inter-clan fighting raged.

No reports of casualties reached Mogadishu but a spokesman for Indian soldiers stationed in the area said he feared fighting between clans there would spill into the volatile town.

With guns as common as eggs in the bazaars and warring clans roaming the streets of Mogadishu in "specials" — pick-up trucks with heavy machine-guns mounted on them — life has long been a daily gamble for the citizens of the capital.

The daily shootings and frequent pitched battles between the clans have forced the withdrawal of most relief workers from Somalia, but their arrival en masse along with the U.N. troops in late 1992 did avert mass starvation threatened by drought.

That was the U.N. troops' primary mission, but they became sucked into the violence.

More than 100 U.N. soldiers have been killed over the past two years, and American troops who spearheaded the operation withdrew last March after 36 of their men were killed. They put a price on Gen. Aideed's head, but never succeeded in capturing him.

The reduced U.N. presence in the country is meanwhile costing \$5.7 million a day, with the troops' main task now their own protection.

U.N. contingents have already pulled quietly out of a number of provincial cities. U.N. military spokesman Major Richard McDonald said in Mogadishu recently.

The two-to-four-month timetable for the withdrawal of the remaining troops, mostly from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Malaysia, means they will

start returning before the end of the year.

Leaders of 12 clans are currently holding a "national reconciliation conference" in Mogadishu but observers dismiss this as a farce, as none of their opponents is taking part in the discussions. U.N. officials had hoped the talks would be broad-based and lead to a government of national unity.

In Mogadishu, the United Nations tightened security on Saturday after a faction loyal to warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed launched a savage verbal attack on a U.N. envoy for criticising its peace efforts.

Witnesses said the number of Pakistani troops visible in the streets of Mogadishu was high as UNOSOM attempted a show of force to discourage any possible attacks by militia loyal to the powerful Aideed.

But Somalis faction leaders said they planned no such attacks on the U.N.

Victor Ghebo, special representatives of the U.N. secretary-general, has attacked the decision by General Aideed's supporters to hold a reconciliation meeting in the absence of Gen. Aideed's blood rival, Ali Mahdi Mohamad.

Gen. Aideed's faction said on Friday that Mr. Ghebo was "usurping the prerogative of the Somali political leadership to decide for themselves on the destiny of their country."

The special representatives pointed out that a conference without the participation of all the factions would be a recipe for continued strife and violence. He is simply wrong," the faction said.

At the U.N. in New York on Friday, the Security Council called for a secure and orderly withdrawal by March 31, 1995.

About 15,000 U.N. troops now remain out of a force which at one point grew to a strength of more than 29,000.

They were first deployed in 1992 to rescue Somalis from the famine and chaos in which hundreds of thousands died and more than a million fled to neighbouring countries after the downfall of president Mohammad Siad Barre.

An orderly withdrawal for the U.N. force is by no means assured since Somali warlords who have repeatedly thwarted efforts to establish a transitional government may try to loot departing U.N. forces.

The secretary-general said the withdrawal would take between 60 and 120 days, depending on security conditions.

Algerian troops kill bomber, 22 militants

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Security forces killed the man who orchestrated a cemetery bomb attack, which left four children dead, and 33 other armed Islamic militants in a raid in western Algeria, a newspaper report said Saturday.

The daily *El Watan* identified the man behind the bombing in Mostaganem in the southwest only as a doctor in his 40s. It said the raid was reported by the military commander in the region to a delegation of women who had gone there from the capital on Thursday.

There was no official confirmation of the report Saturday morning.

The paper said the other 33 Islamic militants, who included one woman, were killed in an operation in the Hachacha forest, about 30 kilometers from the cemetery.

The blast there Tuesday, the first directly to target children, killed four young Muslim boy scouts and wounded 18 others during a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the start of Algeria's war for independence.

The cemetery attack has been blamed on armed Islamic radicals who have been waging a campaign of armed insurgency against the government since it annulled elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in January 1992.

Algerian government forces broke down last month, but the FIS dis-

claimed and condemned the attack. Exiled FIS leader Abdul Baki Sabraoui in France alleged that Algerian security forces were responsible.

Tension further rose when 17 Islamic radicals were killed Tuesday and Wednesday by security forces after an unarmed negotiator was shot dead.

The Algerian conflict has left between 10,000 and 12,000 people dead since the cycle of violence erupted more than two-and-a-half years ago.

The United States expressed deep concern Friday over the continuing violence in Algeria and called for dialogue between the government and Islamic militants.

"We do believe that there are ways in which you can expand the political dialogue and expand the circle of contacts without including those who espouse terrorism as a way of addressing the conflict," State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

Noting that the Palestinians chose their way and are

The violence that continues in Algeria has been of very deep concern to us, not only because they are directed against westerners and foreigners ... but also because they've been so fundamentally damaging to the people of Algeria."

The United States had called on repeated occasions for discussions between the government and the FIS.

"We don't believe it is impossible for them to have that type of dialogue with those who reject violence."

Lawmakers draw clear pro- and anti-treaty lines

(Continued from page 1)

their national efforts to achieve socio-economic development and improve the living conditions in a just and balanced manner," he said.

"In the light of the regional competition expected in the coming era of peace we are in a need of courageous and frank revision of our administrative system with a view to raising its efficiency and we need a national programme to serve the country in the peace era marked with openness on the part of the executive authorities to the Jordanian public."

Following the Palestinians' option to follow a separate path, Jordan found itself politically isolated and realised that many things were going on behind the scene and that proposed solutions could be adopted at the Kingdom's expense," he said.

Some had wanted Jordan to serve as a mere pressure card but not assuming a meaningful role while others had wanted to see the end of this country," he added.

"All these have motivated Jordan to follow the path of peace and conclude the treaty which ensures the return of all its rights," he said.

Through this treaty, he said, Jordan has succeeded in putting an end to Israel's expansionist designs and ended the plot which aimed at creating from Jordan a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

The fact that Israeli farms still exist on Jordanian territory does not mean that Jordan's rights are compromised, he said, noting that Jordanians own lands in neighbouring Arab states and they have to obtain permits to cultivate them and that other Arab nations own land in Jordan and they continue to develop their property.

Through this treaty Jordan has opened the door for investments in the country and for economic projects which means more trade with the world, more tourism and an end of sufferings for many people, he said.

"I hereby declare my full support for the treaty," he concluded.

Miftah Lawzi (Amman-Jubeiha)

"This treaty came as a fruit of national efforts exerted by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and the negotiations which preceded the signing of the treaty came with full authorisation from the Jordanian people," said Mr. Lawzi.

Both the National Charter and Parliament have approved of Jordan's steps towards reaching peace with Israel and authorised the government to pursue efforts to attain that goal, he said.

"Therefore this treaty is a natural outcome of the series of developments and a good result achieved in the midst of regional and international circumstances," he added.

Speaking in his name and on behalf of Tawfiq Kreishan, Ali Al Shatti, Mohammad Howeimel and Salem Zawaideh, Mr. Thubeirat said the treaty does not in any manner impinge on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. Nor does it cause damage to Jordan's relations with the other Arab countries, he said.

Stressing that Jordan does not condone acts of terrorism, Mr. Thubeirat said the Kingdom supports the rights of all groups to express their free opinion. But he said that Israel should also abide by all international treaties, including a ban on the use of mass destruction weapons.

"We share in the fear of economic relations with Israel in view of the fact that Israel is much more advanced than Jordan in technical and economic fields and we fear that Israel will impose its hegemony on the Jordanian economy. Therefore we demand that the national economy when concluding any economic agreement with Israel," he said.

Mr. Zoubi defended the peace treaty saying the Kingdom did not compromise on any of its rights. "Jordan has paid a heavy price all the past years for adopting pan-Arab stands," Mr. Zoubi said. The country had only reaped a siege of its economy and political isolation, he added.

Noting that the Palestinians chose their way and are

The peace treaty has enhanced Jordan's national identity by asserting the Kingdom's geographic boundaries and returned the lost lands and water resources," Mr. Zoubi said.

"Furthermore, the treaty has retained and respected Jordan's historic rights in Jerusalem's holy places."

"Having examined all the articles of the treaty, I declare my full backing of it and to King Hussein's steps towards peace."

Fawzi Zoubi — (Ramtha)

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Arabs need to pursue reforms to benefit from peace, experts say

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Peace will likely attract investment to the Middle East after decades of capital flight but such a flow will remain slow without adequate economic reforms in the region, experts said Friday.

Some Arab League members have already embarked on reforms to tackle chronic economic problems but the pace of reform has been slow while other members have yet to do so because of internal conflicts.

"It is natural that investments will increase when there is peace and stability but the increase will be limited without a proper investment climate and a sound economy," a Gulf-based Arab economist told AFP.

Investors, whether Arabs or non-Arabs, naturally look for security for their investment. But they also want to make profit. And you can not take profits in a country suffering from a slow economy, debt and high inflation while investments face the spectre of nationalisation at any time," he said.

Economic problems coupled with strong government intervention, inadequate financial policies, red tape and political instability have scared away local and foreign investors in the past decades in most Arab nations. As a result, the region suf-

fered from one of the worst capital drainages in history, with overseas Arab assets accumulating to more than \$650 billion at the end of 1992. Most are based in the United States and other Western countries in the form of stocks, real estate and bank deposits.

Economic woes in the region have persisted although the 22-member Arab League has received more than \$370 billion in aid and other forms of cash flow over the past 25 years, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Inflation was as high as 28.6 per cent in 1992 and foreign debt exceeded \$155 billion while most members suffered from budget and trade deficits.

But reforms in some members over the past few years have produced results although they were criticised as slow and insufficient by the Abu Dhabi-based AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation.

According to official figures, the Arab gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.2 per cent annually in real terms between 1990 and 1992 compared with 1.9 per cent between 1986 and 1989. The growth occurred despite negative growth rates in Kuwait, Iraq and other oil producers due to the Gulf

war.

The budget deficit in non-oil Arab countries was cut to \$6.2 billion in 1992 from \$10 billion in 1987. This was in contrast with Gulf oil producers, whose deficit increased to \$34.7 billion from \$29.8 billion in that same period due to large payments for the anti-Iraq coalition.

The figures showed the cut in the deficit was mainly due to a rise in revenues to \$38.7 billion from \$26.6 billion. Exports by the non-oil group also surged to \$39 billion from \$25.1 billion.

Although their trade balance continued to suffer from a deficit, the overall balance of payment recorded a surplus of \$6.44 billion in 1992 compared with \$1.2 billion in 1987. This was due to the increase in exports and in capital inflow, mainly remittances and aid.

"It has become evident that economic reforms are the only way to achieve prosperity in the Arab World as it has the suitable environment, including cheap labour and abundant energy," a Gulf bank manager said.

"The countries which have embarked on such reforms should accelerate them and the remaining members should start reforms. I believe reforms should cover all sectors, including privatisation, stock markets, taxation

systems, investment regulations, the infrastructure and administrative measures," he added.

Only 10 Arab states have official stock markets but most of them have remained closed to foreign investors and lack diverse financial instruments.

Around 1,100 banks and companies trade their shares in the region, with their market capitalisation standing at nearly \$50 billion, a fraction of the total world capitalisation of more than \$9 trillion.

The AMF, which is helping Arab states in their reform programmes, has embarked on a project to link their stock markets to attract capital.

But it believes member states must first develop their markets.

"Despite economic achievements made in some Arab countries due to the reform programmes and efforts being exerted in others, our stock markets still need a comprehensive structural development," it said in a recent study.

"There is a need to redress financial policies and develop stock markets in the Arab World in order to create a framework capable of attracting national and foreign investment and stimulating the private sector," the AMF stressed.

Yeltsin names liberal Chubais as first deputy premier

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Saturday appointed Anatoly Chubais, an outspoken reformist who has spearheaded Russia's bold privatisation programme, as first deputy prime minister.

Chubais, 39, was chosen from a group of 11 deputy prime ministers appointed by Yeltsin on Friday.

A presidential spokesman said that Mr. Chubais, 39, who previously was a deputy prime minister and the head of State Property Committee, had been released from both these jobs.

It was not clear what responsibilities Mr. Chubais would have in his new position.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin already has one first deputy, Oleg Soskovets, who is in overall control of economy but mainly concentrates on developing natural industries.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman said that Mr. Soskovets would remain in his current position.

Mr. Chubais is the last survivor from the "reformist team" of Yegor Gaidar, which Mr. Yeltsin had brought to power in late 1991 to launch an economic reform intended to create a Western-style market economy in post-Soviet Russia.

In that team Mr. Chubais was responsible for privatisation — the biggest-ever state property sell-off in which millions of Russians were given a chance to become shareholders.

The appointment of Mr. Chubais, whose agency has become a symbol of Russia's struggle towards capitalism, is sure to enrage Mr. Yeltsin's conservative opponents.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision bringing a key liberal to the second highest position in the government clearly indicated the president's desire to stress his commitment to reform and encourage Russian liberals alarmed by recent cabinet changes.

"I don't think that (Prime Minister Tomiichi) Murayama's cabinet is unenthusiastic about deregulation," said Mr. Miyazaki, who has been tipped by media to head a private policy group advising Mr. Murayama to be set up later this year.

"But the issues are getting more concrete and they directly concern the interests of both specific industries and ministries, so (making progress) would be a problem for

Pressure mounts on Japan to cut official red tape

TOKYO (R) — From banks to retailers, Japanese companies are joining a growing clamour for deregulation of the country's economy — for once putting many domestic and foreign businessmen in the same corner.

On Friday, banking sources said leading Japanese commercial banks had given the finance ministry a lengthy list of demands for deregulation to improve prospects for profits.

Meanwhile, some domestic interests are urging the government to speed up the timetable for a mid-term deregulation plan to be unveiled next March. Isamu Miyazaki, Daiwa Research Institute chairman told Reuters.

"An increasing number of Japanese believe Japan itself will benefit from deregulation," said an expert on business between the United States and Japan.

The powerful business lobby Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organisations) is urging the government to listen more carefully to private sector demands for faster deregulation.

Business sources said, however, that the group has felt compelled to tread lightly in the financial sector.

"So far, Keidanren has shied away from urging financial deregulation because member companies in the field are worried about the finance ministry's reaction," one business source said. "But that is going to change."

Pressure on finance mandarins to loosen their grip is expected to grow amid fears that Tokyo is losing status as a world financial centre in a "hollowing out" process, whereby lucrative business shifts to less controlled markets overseas.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good Moon trine Neptune and Uranus day for you to coordinate your efforts with other persons in projects that are vital to your success and happiness. Improve the value of your property.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It would be wise to permit a good friend to help you solve a personal problem. Don't spend more money now than you can afford on items.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The mood at home could be changing rapidly, so be sure that you at least are steadfast. Be careful of strangers so you won't be in danger.

TAUROS: (April 20 to May 20) Study your position in life and know if any changes would be wise to make. Any public duties should be handled cleverly by you today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go after personal goals in a positive fashion and you gain them easily now. Sidestep one who wants to slow up your progress to your success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Confer with an expert who can help you gain a personal aim. Relax at home tonight with your mate and you will keep out of trouble.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go after your aims in a more sure and up-to-date way and gain them. Planning new activities for the future is wise and valuable for you now.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study new systems that will help you advance in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with your reputation or you may damage it beyond repair.

BIRTHSTONE of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

Chirac seen more interventionist and protectionist than Balladur

PARIS (R) — Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, who announced his candidacy for the French presidency Friday, is regarded as more interventionist and protectionist than Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, his main rival on the right.

Political analysts say Mr. Chirac has no deeply-held economic philosophy having been both a privatising liberal prime minister in the mid-1980s and a promoter of state-driven high technology industries during an earlier stint as premier in the mid-1970s.

However, recent statements show he is sceptical of European monetary union, advocates greater state aid and protection for agriculture, and believes the government should give the fight for jobs absolute priority.

Speaking at a conference in Paris on Oct. 22, he said of the Maastricht treaty on European political, economic and monetary union: "On the essential aspect of a single currency, it appears certain that it is inapplicable."

Noting that Britain and Germany had promised to give their parliaments the final say, Mr. Chirac said

France should hold a referendum before agreeing to enter the final stage of a single currency.

A former agriculture minister and supporter of France's farm lobby, he made hostility to the GATT world trade talks a major issue in 1993 parliamentary elections. But he eventually backed the deal negotiated by Mr. Balladur after France won improved terms for its cereals exports.

In a manifesto-style book last June setting out his policy for "a new France," Mr. Chirac wrote: "Fighting unemployment is not just one priority among others; it is the absolute priority to which everything must be subordinated."

Mr. Chirac gave only vague indications of how he would finance his proposals, saying experts should study a general levy on all income, higher value added tax or a tax on pollution.

Mr. Chirac's aides say that while his rhetoric tends to be nationalistic, in the tradition of his mentor, general Charles de Gaulle, he has in practice promoted European integration.

Oman seeks \$2.6b in investment

DUBAI (R) — Oman is seeking \$2.6 billion of local and foreign investments to finance industrial, agriculture and infrastructure projects.

Without mentioning Mr. Balladur's policy of keeping the currency steady against the mark, he said: "The solidity of our currency makes it possible today to anticipate the necessary reduction in interest rates."

"Let us not forget that the franc's value rests above all on the power and thus the strength of our economy," he added.

Since Mr. Balladur gave the Bank of France its independence on monetary policy in January, the central bank is intended to be free of pressure from politicians over interest rates.

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IMF praises Lithuania

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$201 million loan for Lithuania to help the Baltic country further reform its economy and bring down inflation.

Lithuania has made impressive progress in building a modern market economy in a difficult market environment," the IMF said in a news release announcing the loan.

The money will be made available over the next three years under the IMF's extended fund facility.

"The authorities' objectives are ambitious, and their programme is a strong one, with a high probability of success," the IMF said.

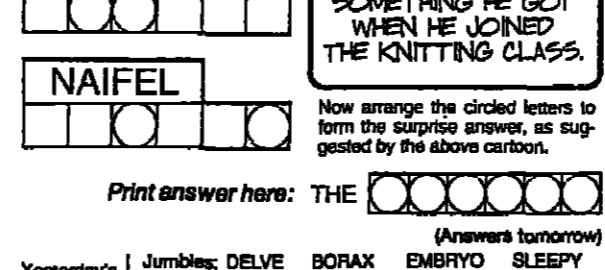
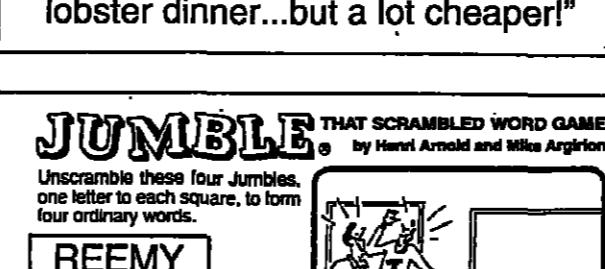
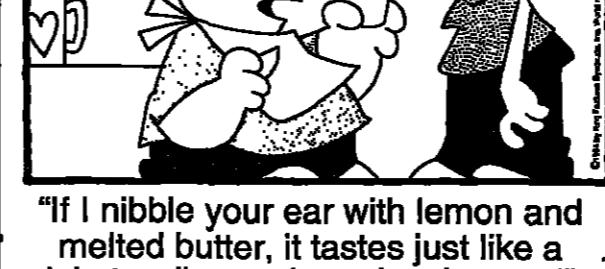
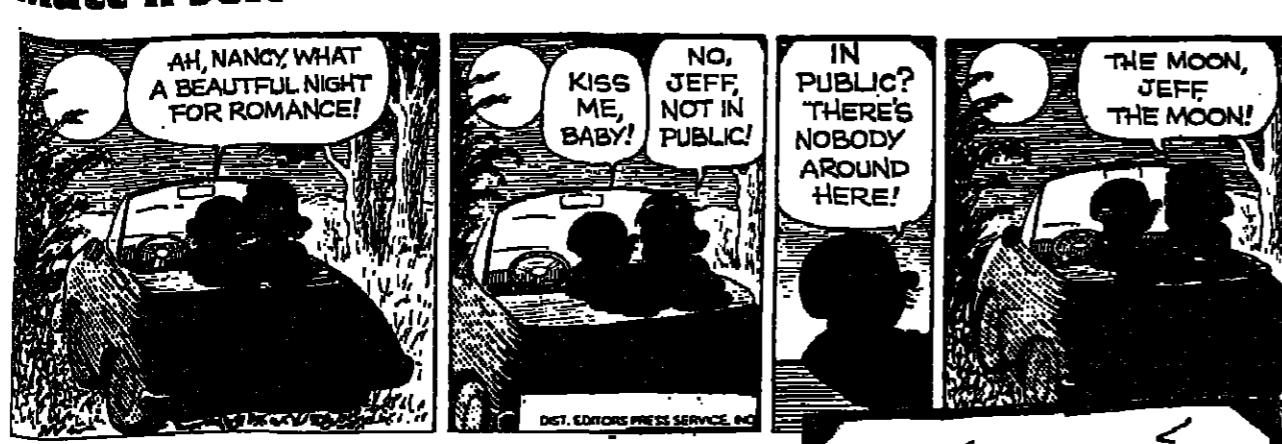
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Print answer here:
Yesterday's Jumble: DELVE BORAX EMBRYO SLEEPY
Answer: What the weightlifter found at his favorite hangout — BAR BELLES

THE Daily Crossword

by Ronald C. Hirschfeld



1st Division Basketball Championship Jazireh, Jalil aim for victory; Homentmen clash with Al Watani

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least two of the three matches lined up for Sunday in the first division basketball championship are very crucial for the teams and eagerly awaited by their fans.

Al Jazireh clash with Al Jalil in Irbid as both teams eye the third or second placed standing this season, while in Amman Al Watani meet all-time rivals Homentmen in order to maintain their place in the first division.

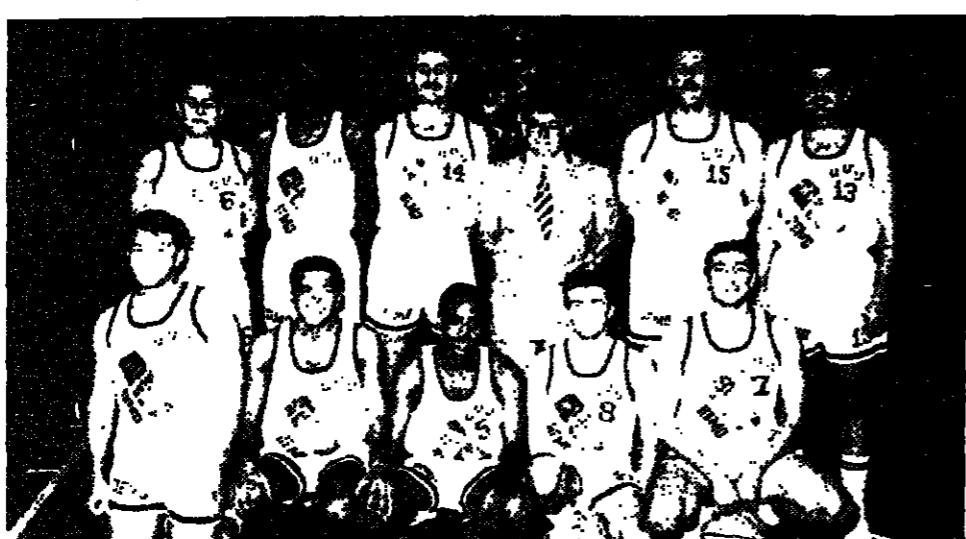
In the third match, Al Hussein take on titleholders Al Ahli.

Homentmen's match against Al Watani is crucial to both teams.

Al Watani are better prepared than their opponents and aim to advance last year's fifth place standing. Winning is also very important as two teams will be relegated this season and Al Watani need to defeat Al Hussein and Homentmen in order to maintain their place in the first division.

Homentmen are in an unenviable form. They enter the competition with the least preparedness after starting training late and not having effective substitutes.

Al Jazireh's match against Al Jalil will demonstrate both team's capabilities.



Al Watani's team

ties and ambitions.

Al Jalil's coach has asserted that his team will be playing for an advanced standing this year and would not settle for fourth place again.

Al Jazireh too are ready to advance their third place standing especially that last year's runner up Al Orthodoxi will be represented by their younger lineup of players following the retirement of older players, especially Murad Barakat, who will be coaching.

Al Jazireh scored a 91-68 win over Al Watani on the first day of the competition Thursday.

Although scoring remained close at the beginning, Al Jazireh took charge with a tight man-to-man defense that enabled Ghaiti Eannabi, Naser Alawneh and Husam Lutfi to score and win the first half 46-29.

Al Watani caught up and reduced the gap at the start of the second half, but Eannabi's accurate three pointers, together with Alawneh and Saqr Khirfan maintained their team's lead, scoring convincing 23 point win.

In another match, titleholders Al Ahli sailed through their match against newcomers Homentmen scoring a big 135-26 win.

Al Ahli gave all bench players a chance especially after Naser Bushnaq and Sami Sa'duldin had four personal fouls.

Sevan Sarkissian was Homentmen's best player. However they were no match for the champions who won the first half 69-13.

Al Orthodoxi-Hussein match did not take place and the Jordan Basketball Federation decided to postpone it after Al Orthodoxi were unable to get to Irbid in time after floods closed the road.

ROBERT MCKEE



Britain's Formula One driver Nigel Mansell (left) gestures while talking with his mechanic before the start of the first day's free practice session for the Japanese GP (AFP photo)

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The refusal constitutes a doping offence under the IAAF's rules, the federation said in a statement here.

Ngugi had been asked to provide a urine sample by doping control officer John Wherton at the athlete's Rift Valley home.

The panel said: "The athlete conceded his refusal to submit to testing, even after the consequences of his refusal were explained to him."

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The three-man arbitration panel of the International Amateur Athletic Federation reached its verdict here after Ngugi had refused the out-of-competition test February 13, 1993.

The refusal constitutes a doping offence under the IAAF's rules, the federation said in a statement here.

Ngugi had been asked to provide a urine sample by doping control officer John Wherton at the athlete's Rift Valley home.

The panel said: "The athlete conceded his refusal to submit to testing, even after the consequences of his refusal were explained to him."

Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000m

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1994 11

Al Hussein regain lead; Karmel score first win

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein regained their lead atop the First Division soccer standings following their 1-0 win over Al Jazireh, while Al Wihdat who reigned at the top for the past four weeks, dropped to second place on goal difference after the conclusion of the 10th week of the prestigious competition.

Al Wihdat lost ground after scoring three consecutive draws, the latest a goalless tie with Al Ramtha who moved up to third place.

Newcomers Al Karmel finally earned their first win over Al Jeel; Al Ahli moved up to sixth place following their 2-0 win over Al Arabi, while Al Qadissieh and Shabab Al Hussein settled for a 1-1 draw and could not improve their ninth and tenth standings. Al Faisali-Kufrsoum match was disrupted because of heavy rain.

With only one week to go before the first leg is concluded Nov. 11, Al Hussein now lead with 17 points and the best scoring average at 30.10.

Al Wihdat also have 17 points, but have one of the lowest scoring averages at 11.2.

Over 15,000 fans at Al Wihdat-Al Ramtha match left the stadium disappointed when both teams failed to score after a series of wasted chances.

Both teams allowed their younger bench players to take part. Ali Jum'a and Mohammad Abu Zame'h substituted for Al Wihdat's Hisham Abdul Mune'm

and Mohammad Al Shama'i.

Badran Al Shaqran and Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib secured Al Ramtha's most serious scoring chances as both teams settled for a tie.

Meanwhile Al Ahli finally pleased their fans and improved their standing following their 2-0 win over Al Arabi at Al Hassan Stadium in Irbid.

Al Ahli's captain Nart Yadaj scored both his team's goals, the first from a header in the 32nd minute.

Al Arabi's Ahmad Subi and Ayman Al Omari were closely guarded by Al Ahli's alert defence who were determined not to allow an equaliser.

Yadaj secured his team's vital win when he netted the second goal with one minute left in the match.

In another match, Al Karmel finally scored a face-saving win that gave them four points in the standings. However their modest capabilities and ex-

perience seem unable to prevent both team's relegation once again.

Zakarya Al Shabani opened scoring for Al Jeel in the 32nd minute, but Al Karmel equalised from a penalty kick only three minutes later.

Al Jeel won the first half 2-1 after a goal by Hussein Naser in the 43rd minute.

Al Jeel did not give up and their morale was given a boost when Tha'er Abu Shahrain netted the equaliser in the 46th minute.

Al Karmel won the match scoring their third goal in the 80th minute.

At Al Mafrag Stadium, Al Hussein's Khaled Khatatbeh stunned Al Jazireh with a surprising early goal in the 7th minute.

Simon George and Ahmad Rashed led Al Jazireh's attacks but players had a hard time controlling the ball after heavy rainfall swamped the stadium.

The match was halted 15

minutes but continued again and Aref Hussein wasted the only real chance to score as the match ended with an important win for Al Hussein before they face titleholders Al Faisali next week.

In another match greatly affected by the prevailing weather conditions, Shabab Al Hussein managed to draw with Al Qadissieh as both team's standings remained unchanged.

Although Al Qadissieh's Ra'ed Tu'meh opened scoring in the 23rd minute, they could not hold on to their lead as Shabab Al Hussein seemed determined to score and Adnan Al Lahham gave his team the precious equaliser in the 81st minute.

Al Faisali-Kufrsoum match was the only one that was disrupted by heavy rainfall when the referee halted the match in the 63rd minute.

Both teams had failed to score until that time, although Al Faisali played a more attacking game, but were successfully contained by a well-knit Kufrsoum defence.

Only 10 goals were scored during the past week compared to the highest number of 22 in the seventh week.

Standings after 10th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Hussein	10	8	1	1	30	10	17
Al Wihdat	10	7	3	—	11	2	17
Al Ramtha	10	5	4	1	17	4	14
Al Faisali*	9	5	3	1	19	6	13
Al Jazireh	10	6	1	3	15	8	13
Al Ahli	10	4	3	3	13	13	11
Al Kufrsoum	9	4	1	4	17	18	9
Al Arabi	10	3	2	5	12	19	8
Al Qadissieh	10	1	4	5	11	18	6
Shabab Al Hussein	10	1	3	6	14	24	5
Al Karmel	10	1	2	7	7	24	4
Al Jeel	10	—	1	9	6	26	1

* Faisali-Kufrsoum have a postponed match.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANIAH HIRSCH
From their series on

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

K473 KQ83 84 ♦AK5

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.2—A, South, vulnerable, you hold:

46 ♦AQ5 K8 K47632

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 NT Pass Pass 2

What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K104 8 K982 4A7632

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.4—South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K73 K983 84 ♦AK5

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦Q1072 K985 K73 ♦AQ5

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you respond?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K843 71082 3Q85 ♦AQ5

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Schneider opens final world cup challenge

SAAS FEE, Switzerland (R)

— Olympic champion Vreni Schneider embarks on her final world cup season this weekend after a decade of Alpine skiing excellence.

Schneider, who will be 30 November 26, has been hampered in her preparations by a meniscus operation and is wary about her prospects for Sunday's slalom.

Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Norway's overall world cup champion, heads the field of 32 qualifiers who race in parts only for Nations' Cup points.

But Alberto Tomba, Italy's former Olympic champion, will not be among the stars.

The new season kicks off on a glacier in this Valais region resort with a men's parallel slalom, an event which carries prize money of 120,000 Swiss francs (\$95,000) but no individual world cup points.

Schneider, who will be 30 November 26, has been hampered in her preparations by a meniscus operation and is wary about her prospects for Sunday's slalom.

“I have been training hard and need time to get back into top form. But for a start I think I should be able to get into the top five or six,” she said.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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although drenched spectators compared conditions to a hurricane.

The Spurs went on to lose 123-118 to Golden State. Ironically, both teams were delayed last year by water from a ceiling leak at the same wet.

Ten other first-night games included Portland's 121-100 triumph over the Los Angeles Clippers in Yokohama, the third time in five years the league has opened with games in Japan.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 19 points and reigning NBA champion Houston opened with a 90-86 home triumph

over New Jersey.

Charles Smith scored 23 points and the New York Knicks, who lost the title series last June in the maximum seven games, beat Boston 120-107.

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TONDAY	Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144	Cinema PLAZA Tel.: 699238	Cinema CONCORD Tel.: 677420	AMMOUN THEATRE Tel.: 618274 - 618275 Presents “Water is a Gift of Life” A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. For reservations call tel.: 618274 - 618275	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155
	Leslie Nielsen & Priscilla Presley in Naked Gun 3 1/3 The Final Insult	Lorenzo Lanas — in SWORDS MAN	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy “PUNCTURED BAG” Theater close Sunday and Monday	Presents: The political satire: AI Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

